

Message Text

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61

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

TAR-02 RSR-01 /124 W

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R 300021 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7547

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E. O. 11652: N/ A, DECLAS 4-27-76

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, KS

SUBJ: KOREAN PURCHASING MISSION TO U. S.

REF: SEOUL 2527

1. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MCI) HAS COMPLETED PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF POTENTIAL COMMODITIES THAT MIGHT BE PURCHASED IN U. S. MINISTRY WORKING GROUPS ANALYZED ALL 1972 KOREAN IMPORTS FROM U. S. WITH VALUE IN EXCESS OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO DETERMINE LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR ADDITIONALITY. TO DATE, GROUPS HAVE TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED APPROXIMATELY 120 COMMODITIES WHERE POTENTIAL EXISTS TO SWITCH AMOUNTS FROM PARTLY TO MOSTLY JAPANESE SOURCES TO U. S. SUPPLIERS. MCI STRESSES THAT RESULTS ARE ONLY PRELIMINARY AND DEEPER ANALYSIS REQUIRED BEFORE LIST CAN BE FINALIZED AND RELEASED. MCI EXPECTS LISTS WILL BE READY BY ABOUT MAY 7.

2. RECOGNITION OF MAGNITUDE OF TASK IN PREPARING FOR MISSION HAS CAUSED ROKG TO POSTPONE PLANNED DEPARTURE DATE UNTIL AT LEAST JUNE 1. PRESENT INTENT IS TO WAIT UNTIL DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, TAE WON SUN, HAS COMPLETED U. S. VISIT AND THEN
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DISPATCH MISSION SOMETIME DURING PERIOD JUNE 1-5, BUT EVEN THIS

REMAINS TENTATIVE.

3. MCI PLANNING TO HAVE HALF OF GROUP CONSIST OF ROKG OFFICIALS DRAWN FROM VARIOUS MINISTRIES. REMAINING HALF WILL BE FROM ROK BUSINESS COMMUNITY. MCI ESPECIALLY DESIROUS THAT REPRESENTATIVES FROM MAJOR KOREAN TRADING COMPANIES BE INCLUDED IN MISSION.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES MCI MAKING SERIOUS EFFORT TO COMPILE COMPREHENSIVE AND RATIONAL SHOPPING LIST FOR MISSION. THEY ARE DEMONSTRATING AWARENESS OF DIFFICULTIES FACING THEM AND ARE PLANNING TO BRING IN OUTSIDERS, INCLUDING U. S. BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES IN KOREA, TO ASSIST IN ENSURING MISSION'S SUCCESS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR SITUATION CLOSELY AND WILL REPORT LIST OF COMMODITIES AS SOON AS FINALIZED.
UNDERHILL

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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